

## REP. BECERRA: YOU CAN'T BALANCE THE BUDGET BY UNDERCUTTING WORKING FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, DC—As the new Republican majority in the House prepares to pass a continuing budget resolution that takes a chainsaw to proven, effective programs that create jobs and invest in our future economic prosperity, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, released the following statement.

**“You can’t balance the budget in the long term by undercutting America’s working families today. But that’s what these reckless, short term, short sighted cuts would do—and hitting Latino, African American and Asian American communities the hardest. Small businesses just getting off the ground with help from the Minority Business Development Agency would now be in jeopardy. The 40 year old autoworker in Detroit who is learning new skills to compete in a changing economy might have his classes canceled. And thousands of Latino and African American children getting a head start on their reading and math skills through the Head Start program could start falling behind.”**

The proposed Continuing Resolution would cut:

- \$1.9 million from the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), the sole agency dedicated to fostering growth and innovation among minority-owned firms.
- \$3 billion from the Workforce Investment Act, which provides essential job training initiatives that have helped millions of minorities gain the skills to compete in our nation’s job market.
  - In Los Angeles, 170,000 out-of-work city residents would no longer receive critical retraining services to help them find a new job.
  - Nationally, WIA has helped over 8 million Americans train for new jobs.
- \$1 billion from Head Start, taking away the chance for over 200,000 children—two thirds of whom are African American or Latino—to get a head start on their reading and math skills.

- \$1.3 billion from Community Health Centers, which currently provide affordable, quality health care to 20 million Americans, over half of whom are Latino or African American.
- \$75 million from veterans' housing programs, leaving up to 10,000 homeless veterans without a roof over their head.

These are just a few of the \$60 billion in draconian cuts proposed in the 2011 Republican budget measure, much of which will negatively impact minority communities in America.